THE

GOOD SOLDIER.

EXTRACTED FROM A

SERMON

PREACHED TO A

COMPANY of VOLUNTIERS,

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Be of good Courage, and let us play the Men, for our People, and for the Cities of our GOD: *And the* LORD *do that which ſeemeth Him good.*

I Cannot begin my Addreſs to you with more proper Words than thoſe of a great General, which I have read.

My preſent Deſign is, to illuſtrate and improve theſe, as they lie in Order, which you will find rich in ſundry important Inſtructions, adapted to this Occaſion.

The Words were ſpoken juſt before a very threatening Engagement by *Joab*, who had long ſerved under King *David*, as the General of his Forces, and had ſhewn himſelf an Officer of true Courage. The *Ammonites* were preparing to invade his Territories; on which *David* ſent *Joab* with his Army, to repel them. It ſeems the Army of the Enemy were much more numerous than *David*'s.

This is true Courage, and ſuch as we ought all to cheriſh in the preſent dangerous Conjuncture. This will render Men vigilant and cautious againſt Surprizes, prudent and deliberate in concerting their Meaſures, and ſteady and reſolute in executing them. But without this they will fall into unſuſpected Dangers, which will ſtrike them with wild Conſternation: They will meanly ſhun Dangers that are ſurmountable, or ruſh into thoſe that are evidently fatal, and throw away their Lives in vain.

Though Nature be uſually the Origin of this Courage, yet there are ſundry Things that may improve it, even in Minds full of natural Bravery, and animate thoſe who are naturally of an effeminate Spirit to behave with Fortitude, in the Defence of their Country.——I need not tell you that it is of great Importance for this End that you ſhould be at Peace with GOD, and your own

Conſcience, and prepared for your future State. Guilt is naturally timorous, and often ſtruck into a Panic even with imaginary Dangers; and an Infidel Courage, proceeding from Want of Thought, or a ſtupid Careleſsneſs about our Welfare through an immortal Duration beyond the Grave, is very unbecoming a Man or a Chriſtian. The moſt important Periods of our Exiſtence, my Brethren, lie beyond the Grave; and it is a Matter of much more Concern to us, what will be our Doom in the World to come, than what becomes of us in this. We are obliged to defend our Country; and that is a ſordid Soul indeed that can deſert it at ſuch a Time as this: But this is not all; we are alſo obliged to take Care of an immortal Soul; a Soul that muſt exiſt, and be happy or miſerable, through the Revolutions of eternal Ages. This ſhould be our firſt Care; and when this is ſecured, Death, in its moſt ſhocking Forms, is but a Releaſe from a World of Sin and Sorrows, and an Introduction into everlaſting Life and Glory. But how can this be ſecured? Not by a Courſe of impenitent Sinning; not by a Courſe of ſtupid Careleſsneſs: But by vigorous and reſolute Striving; by ſerious and affectionate Thoughtfulneſs about our Condition, and by a conſcientious and earneſt Attendance upon the Means that GOD has graciouſly appointed for our Recovery. But "we are Sinners, heinous Sinners againſt a GOD of infinite Purity and inexorable Juſtice." Yes, we are ſo; and does not the Poſture of Penitents then become us? Is not Repentance, deep, broken-hearted Repentance, a Duty ſuitable to Perſons of our Character? Undoubtedly it is: And therefore, O my Countrymen, REPENT: Fall down upon your Knees before the provoked Sovereign of Heaven and Earth, againſt whom you have rebelled. Melt in penitential Sorrows at his Feet; and He will tell you, *Ariſe, be of good Chear; your Sins are forgiven you.* "But will Repentance make "Atonement for our Sins? Will our Tears waſh away "their Guilt? Will our Sorrows merit Forgiveneſs?" No, my Brethren, after you have done all, you are but unprofitable Servants: After all your Sorrows, and Prayers, and Tears, you deſerve to be puniſhed as Criminals: That would be a ſorry Government indeed, where Repentance,

pentance, perhaps extorted by the ſervile Fear of Puniſhment, would make Atonement for every Offence. But *I bring you glad Tidings of great Joy; to you is born a Saviour*, a Saviour of no mean Character; He is *Chriſt* the LORD. And have you never heard that He has *made Reconciliation for Iniquity; that He ſuffered, the Juſt for the Unjuſt; that* GOD *is well-pleaſed for his Sake*, and declares Himſelf willing to be reconciled to all that believe in Him, and chearfully accept Him as their Saviour and LORD. Have you never heard theſe joyful Tidings, O guilty, ſelf-condemned Sinners? Sure you have. Then away to *Jeſus*, away to *Jeſus*, ye whoſe Conſciences are loaden with Guilt, ye whoſe Hearts fail within you at the Thought of Death, and the Tribunal of Divine Juſtice; ye who are deſtitute of all perſonal Righteouſneſs to procure your Pardon, and recommend you to the Divine Favour: Fly to *Jeſus* on the Wings of Faith, all of you, of every Age and Character; for you all ſtand in the moſt abſolute Need of Him; and without Him you muſt periſh every Soul of you. *But alas! we find ourſelves utterly unable to repent and fly to* Jeſus: *Our Hearts are hard and unbelieving, and if the Work depend upon us, it will for ever remain undone.* True, my Brethren, ſo the Caſe is; but do ye not know that this guilty Earth is under the Diſtillings of Divine Grace, that *Jeſus* is intruſted with the Influences of the Spirit, which can *work in you both to will and to do*; and that He is willing to *give his Holy Spirit to them that aſk Him?* If you know this, you know where to go for Strength; therefore cry mightily to GOD for it. This I earneſtly recommend to you, that are now about to riſk your Lives for your Country. Account this the beſt Preparative to encounter Danger and Death; the beſt Incentive to true, rational Courage. What can do you a laſting Injury, while you have a reconciled GOD ſmiling upon you from on high, a peaceful Conſcience animating you within, and a happy Immortality juſt before you! Sure you may bid Defiance to Dangers and Death in their moſt ſhocking Forms. You have anſwered the End of this Life already by preparing for another; and how can you depart off this mortal Stage more honourably, than in the Cauſe of Liberty, of Religion, and your Country?

But if any of you are perplexed with gloomy Fears about this important Affair, or conſcious you are entirely unprepared for Eternity, what muſt you do? Muſt you ſeek to prolong your Life, and your Time for Preparation, by mean or unlawful Ways, by a cowardly Deſertion of the Cauſe of your Country, and ſhifting for your little Selves? Alas! this would but aggravate your Guilt, and render your Condition ſtill more perplexed and diſcouraging. FOLLOW THE PATH OF DUTY wherever it leads you; for it will be always the ſafeſt in the Iſſue. Diligently improve the Time you have to *make your Calling and Election ſure*, and you will find Mercy, and *Grace to help in* ſuch a *Time of Need.*

It is alſo of great Importance to excite and keep up our Courage in ſuch an Expedition, that we ſhould be fully ſatisfied we engage in a *righteous* Cauſe,—and in a Cauſe of *great Moment.* This *Joab* might have in View in his heroic Advice to his Brother; *Be of good Courage*, ſays he, *and let us play the Men, for our People, and for the Cities of our* GOD: As if he had ſaid, *We are engaged in a righteous Cauſe; we are not urged on by an unbounded Luſt of Power or Riches, to encroach upon the Rights and Properties of others, and diſturb our quiet Neighbours: We act entirely upon the defenſive, repel unjuſt Violence; we are fighting* for our People, and for the Cities of our GOD. *We are alſo engaged in a Cauſe of the utmoſt* Importance. *We fight for* our People; *and what Endearments are included in that ſignificant Word! Our Liberty, our Eſtates, our Lives! Our King, our Fellow Subjects, our venerable Fathers, our tender Children, the Wives of our Boſom, our Friends the Sharers of our Souls, our Poſterity to the lateſt Ages! All theſe lie at Stake? But even theſe are not all: We fight* for the Cities of our GOD. GOD *has diſtinguiſhed us with a Religion from Heaven; and hitherto we have enjoyed the quiet and unreſtrained Exerciſe of it: He has condeſcended to be a* GOD *to our Nation, and to honour our Cities with his gracious Preſence, and the Inſtitutions of his Worſhip, the Means to make us wiſe, good and happy: But now theſe moſt invaluable Bleſſings lie at Stake; theſe are the Prizes for which we contend; and muſt it not excite all our active Powers to the higheſt Pitch? Shall we tamely ſubmit to Idolatry, and religious Tyranny? No,*

GOD

GOD *forbid*: Let us play the Men, *ſince we take up Arms for our People, and the Cities of our* GOD.

It is equally clear, that you are engaged in a Cauſe of the utmoſt Importance. To protect your Brethren from the moſt bloody Barbarities—to defend the Territories of the beſt of Kings againſt the Oppreſſion and Tyranny of arbitrary Power—to ſecure the ineſtimable Bleſſings of Liberty, *Britiſh Liberty*, from the Chains of *French* Slavery—to preſerve that, for which you have ſweat and toiled, from falling a Prey to greedy Vultures—to guard your Religion, the pure *Religion of* Jeſus, ſtreaming uncorrupted from the ſacred Fountain of the Scriptures; the moſt excellent, rational and divine Religion that ever was made known to the Sons of Men; to guard ſo dear, ſo precious a Religion, againſt Ignorance, Superſtition, Idolatry, Tyranny over Conſcience, Maſſacre, Fire and Sword, and all the Miſchiefs beyond Expreſſion, with which Popery is pregnant—to keep from the cruel Hands of Papiſts, your Wives, your Children, your Parents, your Friends—to ſecure the Liberties conveyed to you by your brave Forefathers, and bought with their Blood, that you may tranſmit them whole to your Poſterity—Theſe are the Bleſſings you contend for; all theſe will be torn from your eager Graſp, if this Kingdom ſhould become a Province of *France*. And *Britons! Chriſtians! Proteſtants!* if theſe Names have any Import or Energy, will you not exert yourſelves in ſuch a Cauſe? Yes, this View of the Matter muſt fire you into Men. The People of *Meroz* lay at Home in Eaſe, while their Brethren were in the Field, delivering their Country from Slavery. And what was their Doom? *Curſe ye* Meroz, *ſaid the Angel of the* LORD, *curſe ye bitterly the Inhabitants thereof, becauſe they came not to the Help of the* LORD, *to the Help of the* LORD *againſt the Mighty*. I count myſelf happy that I ſee ſo many of you generouſly engaged in ſuch a Cauſe; but when I view it in this Light, I cannot but be concerned that there are ſo few to join you. Where are the Friends of human Nature? Where the Lovers of Liberty and Religion? Now is the Time for you to come forth, and ſhew yourſelves. Nay, where is the Miſer? Let him ariſe and defend his Mammon, or he may ſoon have Reaſon to cry out with

Micah, They have taken away my Gods, and what have I more? Where is the tender Soul, on whom the Paſſions of a Huſband, a Father, or a Son, have a peculiar Energy? Ariſe, and march away; you had better be abſent from thoſe you love for a little while, than ſee them butchered before your Eyes, or doomed to eternal Poverty and Slavery. Therefore, as an Advocate for your King, your Fellow-Subjects, your Country, your Relatives, your earthly All: I do invite and intreat all of you, who have not ſome very ſufficient Reaſon againſt it, voluntarily to enliſt, and go out with thoſe brave Souls, who have ſet you ſo noble an Example.

The Conſideration of the Juſtice and Importance of the Cauſe may alſo encourage you to hope, that the LORD of Hoſts will eſpouſe it, and render its Guardians ſucceſsful, and return them in Safety. The Event however is in his Hands; and it is much better there, than if it were in yours. This Thought is ſuggeſted with beautiful Simplicity, in the remaining Part of my Text, *The* LORD *do that which ſeemeth Him good.* This may be looked upon in various Views, as,

1. It may be underſtood as the Language of Uncertainty and Modeſty. *Let us do all we can; but after all, the Iſſue is uncertain; we know not, as yet, to what Side* GOD *will incline the Victory.* Such Language as this, my Brethren, becomes us in all our Undertakings; it ſounds *Creature-like*, and GOD approves of ſuch ſelf-diffident Humility. But to *boaſt* when we *put on our Armour*, as though we were *putting it off*, and to derive our high Hopes from our own Power and good Management, without any Regard to the Providence of GOD, this is too lordly and aſſuming for feeble Mortals; ſuch Inſolence is generally mortified, and ſuch a haughty Spirit, is the Fore-runner of a Fall. Therefore, though I do not apprehend your Lives will be in any great Danger in your preſent Expedition; yet I would not flatter you, my Brethren, with too high Hopes either of Victory or Safety. I cannot but entertain the pleaſing Proſpect of congratulating you, with many of your Friends, upon your ſucceſsful Expedition, and ſafe Return: And yet it is very poſſible our next Interview may be in that ſtrange untried

tried World beyond the Grave. You are, however, in the Hands of GOD, and He will deal with you as it *ſeemeth Him good:* And I am perſuaded you would not wiſh it were otherwiſe; you would not now practically retract the Petition you have ſo often offered up, *Thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven.*

2. This Language; *The* LORD *do as ſeemeth Him good,* may be looked upon as expreſſive of a firm Perſuaſion that the Event of War entirely depends upon the Providence of GOD. As if he had ſaid, Let *us* do our beſt; but after all, let us be ſenſible that the Succeſs does not depend on *us*; *that* is entirely in the Hands of an *all-ruling* GOD. That GOD governs the World, is a fundamental Article of natural, as well as revealed Religion: It is no great Exploit of Faith, to believe this: It is but a ſmall Advance beyond Atheiſm, and downright Infidelity. I know no Country upon Earth, where I ſhould be put to the Expence of Argument to prove this. The Heathens gave ſtriking Proofs of their Belief of it, by their Prayers, their Sacrifices, their conſulting Oracles, before they engaged in War; and by their coſtly Offerings and ſolemn Thankſgivings, after Victory. And ſhall ſuch a plain Principle as this, be diſputed in a Chriſtian Land? No; we all ſpeculatively believe it; but that is not enough; let our Spirits be deeply *impreſſed* with it, and our Lives *influenced* by it: Let us live in the World, as in a Territory of JEHOVAH's Empire. Carry this Impreſſion upon your Hearts wherever you go. Often let ſuch Thoughts as theſe recur to your Minds, *I am the feeble Creature of* GOD; *and bleſſed be his Name, I am not caſt off his Hand as a diſregarded Orphan to ſhift for myſelf. My Life is under his Care; the Succeſs of this Expedition is at his Diſpoſal. Therefore, O Thou all-ruling* GOD, *I implore thy Protection; I confide in thy Care; I chearfully reſign myſelf, and the Event of this Undertaking, to Thee.* Which leads me to obſerve.

3. That theſe Words, *The* LORD *do what ſeemeth Him good,* may expreſs a humble Submiſſion to the Diſpoſal of Providence, let the Event turn out as it would. *We have not the Diſpoſal of the Event, nor do we know what will be: But* JEHOVAH *knows, and that is enough. We are ſure He will*

will do what is beſt, upon the whole; and it becomes us to acquieſce! Thus, my Friends, do you reſign and ſubmit yourſelves to the Ruler of the World in the preſent Enterprize. He *will* order Matters as He pleaſes; O! let Him do ſo by your chearful Conſent. Let Succeſs or Diſappointment, let Life or Death be the Iſſue, ſtill ſay, *Good is the Will of the* LORD; *let Him do what ſeemeth Him good:* Or if Nature inclines your Deſires to the favourable Side, as no Doubt it will, ſtill keep them within Bounds, ſaying after the Example of *Chriſt, Not my Will, but thine be done.* You may wiſh, you may pray, you may ſtrive, you may hope for a happy Iſſue: But you *muſt* ſubmit: *Be ſtill, and know that He is* GOD, and will not ſuffer a Rival in the Government of the World He has made. Such a Temper will be of unſpeakable Service to you, and you may hope GOD will honour it with a remarkable Bleſſing: For Submiſſion to *his* Will is the readieſt Way to the Accompliſhment of your *own.*

4. Theſe Words may intimate, that let the Event be what it will, it will afford us Satisfaction to think, that we have done the beſt we could. *We cannot command Succeſs; but let us do all in our Power to obtain it, and we have Reaſon to hope that in this Way we ſhall not be diſappointed: But if it ſhould pleaſe* GOD *to render all our Endeavours vain, ſtill we ſhall have the Pleaſure to reflect, that we have not been acceſſary to the Ruin of our Country, but have done all we could for its Deliverance.* So you, my Brethren, are engaged for your King, and Country; and you have Encouragement to hope for Succeſs: But the Cauſe you have eſpouſed, is the Cauſe of a ſinful impenitent Country; and if GOD, in righteous Diſpleaſure, ſhould on this Account blaſt your Attempt, ſtill you will have the Pleaſure of reflecting, that you have done your Part conſcientiouſly.

Having thus made ſome curſory Remarks upon the Text, I ſhall now conclude with an Addreſs to you all.

It concerns you all ſeriouſly to reflect upon your own Sins, and the Sins of your Land, which have brought all our Calamities upon us. If you believe that GOD governs the World, if you do not abjure Him from being the Ruler of your Country, you muſt acknowledge that all

all Calamities which can come, are ordered by his Providence; *There is no Evil in a City or Country, but the* LORD *hath done it.* And if you believe that He is a righteous Ruler, you muſt alſo believe, that He would not thus puniſh a righteous or a penitent People. We and our Countrymen are Sinners, aggravated Sinners: GOD proclaims that we are ſuch by his Judgments now upon us, or hanging over us. Our Conſciences muſt alſo bear witneſs to the ſame melancholy Truth. O my Country, is *not thy Wickedneſs great, and thine Iniquities infinite?* Where is there a more ſinful Spot to be found upon our guilty Globe? Paſs over the Land, take a Survey of the Inhabitants, inſpect into their Conduct, and what do you ſee? What do you hear? You ſee Vice braving the Skies, and bidding Defiance to Heaven and Earth, while Religion is obliged to retire, to avoid public Contempt.——You ſee Herds of Drunkards ſwilling down their Cups, and drowning all *the Man* within them. You hear the Swearer venting his Fury againſt GOD and Man, trifling with that Name which proſtrate Angels adore, and imprecating that Damnation, under which the hardieſt Devil in Hell trembles and groans. You ſee Avarice hoarding up her uſeleſs Treaſures, diſhoneſt Craft planning her Schemes of unlawful Gain, and Oppreſſion unmercifully grinding the Face of the Poor. You ſee Prodigality ſquandering her Stores, Luxury ſpreading her Table, and unmanning her Gueſts; Vanity laughing aloud, regardleſs of GOD, and our Country, of Time and Eternity; Senſuality wallowing in brutal Pleaſures. You ſee Cards more in Uſe than the Bible, Plays and Romances more read than the Hiſtory of the Bleſſed *Jeſus.* You ſee trifling and even criminal Diverſions become a ſerious Buſineſs; the Iſſue of a Horſe-race, or a Cock-fight, more anxiouſly attended to than the Fate of our Country. Or where theſe groſſer Forms of Vice and Folly do not ſhock your Senſes, even there you often meet with more refined Impiety, which is equally dangerous. You hear the Converſation of reaſonable Creatures, of Candidates for Eternity, engroſſed by Trifles, or vainly waſted on the Affairs of Time: Theſe are the eternal Subjects of Converſation, even at the Threſhold of the Houſe of GOD, and on the ſacred Hours devoted

voted to his Service. You ſee Swarms of Prayer-leſs Families all over our Land: Ignorant vicious Children, unreſtrained and untaught by thoſe to whom GOD hath entruſted their Souls. You ſee the beſt Religion in the World, abuſed, neglected, diſobeyed and diſhonoured by its Profeſſors: And you hear Infidelity ſcattering her Suſpicions, or openly attacking the Chriſtian Cauſe with pretended Argument, with Inſult and Ridicule. You ſee Crowds of profeſſed Believers, that are practical Atheiſts; nominal Chriſtians, that are real Heathens; abandoned Slaves of Sin, that yet pretend to be the Servants of the Holy *Jeſus*. You ſee the Ordinances of the Goſpel neglected by ſome, prophaned by others, and attended upon by the Generality with a trifling Irreverence, and ſtupid Unconcernedneſs. Alas! who would think that thoſe thoughtleſs Aſſemblies we often ſee in our Places of Worſhip, are met for ſuch ſolemn Purpoſes as to implore the Pardon of their Sins from an injured GOD, and to prepare for an awful all-important Eternity? Alas! is that Religion for the Propagation of which the Son of GOD laboured, and bled, and died, for which his Apoſtles and Thouſands of Martyrs have ſhed their Blood, and on which our eternal Life depends, is that Religion become ſuch a Trifle, that Men are hardly ſerious when they attend its moſt ſolemn Inſtitutions? What Multitudes lie in a dead Sleep in Sin all around us? You ſee them eager in the Purſuit of the Vanities of Time, but ſtupidly unconcerned about the important Realities of the eternal World. Few ſolicitous what ſhall become of them when all their Ties with Earth and Fleſh muſt be broken, and they take their Flight into ſtrange unknown Regions: Few lamenting their Sins: Few crying for Mercy, and a new Heart: Few flying to *Jeſus*, or juſtly ſenſible of the Importance of a Mediator. You may indeed ſee ſome Degree of Civility towards Men, and more than enough of cringing Complaiſance of Worms to Worms, of Clay to Clay: But O! how little ſincere Homage, how little affectionate Veneration for the great LORD of Heaven and Earth? You may ſee ſome Shadows of Duty to Parents, of Gratitude to Benefactors, and Obedience to Superiors: But if GOD *be a Father, where is his Honour? If He be a Maſter,*

where

where is his Fear? If He be our Benefactor, where is our Gratitude to Him? You may see here and there some Instances of proud, self-righteous Virtue, some Appearances of Morality: But, O how rare is vital, evangelical Religion, and true Christian Morality, animated with the Love of GOD, proceeding from a new Heart, and a Regard to the Divine Authority, full of *Jesus*, full of a Regard to Him as a Mediator, on whose Account alone our Duties can find Acceptance? O blessed Redeemer! what little Necessity, what little Use do the Sinners of our Country find for Thee in their Religion? How many Discourses are delivered, how many Prayers offered, how many good Works are performed, in which there is *scarce any Thing of* Christ? How few pant and languish for Thee, blessed *Jesus!* and can never be contented with their Reformation, with their Morality, with their good Works, 'till they obtain an Interest in thy Righteousness, to render all acceptable!——You may see Children sensible of their Dependence on their Parents for their Subsistence; you may see Multitudes sensible of their Dependence on Clouds, and Sun, and Earth, for Provision for Man and Beast: But how few sensible of their Dependence upon GOD, as the Great Original, the First Mover of natural Causes, and the various Wheels of the Universe. You see even the dull *Ox knows his Owner*, and the stupid *Ass his Master's Crib:* But how is JEHOVAH's Government and Agency practically denied in his own Territories! How few receive the Blessings of Life as from his Hand, and make Him proper Returns of Gratitude? Pass over the Land, and bring me Intelligence, is not this the *general* Character of our Country? I know there are some happy Exceptions: But is not this the prevailing Character of a great Majority? Does not one Part or other of it belong to the Generality? And thus, alas! it has been for a long Time: Our Country has sinned on securely for many Years, and one Age has improved upon the Vices of another. And can a Land always bear up under such a Load of Wickedness? Can GOD always suffer such a Race of Sinners to go on unpunished? May we not fear that our Iniquities are now just full, and that He is about to thunder out to the Executioners of his Vengeance, *Put ye in the Sickle;*

for

for the Harveſt is ripe; *come get ye down for the Preſs is full, the Vats overflow*; *for their Wickedneſs is great.*

And is there no Relief for a ſinking Country? Or is it too late to adminiſter it? Is our Wound incurable, that refuſeth to be healed? No, bleſſed be GOD; if you now turn every one of you from your evil Ways, if you mourn over your Sins, and turn to the LORD with your whole Hearts, then your Country will yet recover. GOD will appear for us, and give a proſperous Turn to our Affairs; He has aſſured us of this in his own Word, *At what Inſtant*, ſays He, *I ſhall ſpeak concerning a Nation, and concerning a Kingdom, to pluck up, and pull down, and to deſtroy it*; *if that Nation, againſt whom I have pronounced, turn from their Evil, I will repent of the Evil that I thought to do unto them*, Jer. xviii. 7, 8. Therefore, my Brethren, as we have all rebelled, let us all join in earneſt Repentance, and a thorough Reformation. Not only your eternal Salvation requires it, but alſo the Preſervation of your Country, that is now bleeding with the Wounds you have given it by your Sins. The Safety of all who are now engaged in the Deſign requires it: For an Army of Heroes, cannot defend a guilty, impenitent People, ripe for the Judgments of GOD. If you would be everlaſtingly happy, and eſcape the Vengeance of eternal Fire; or, (to mention what may perhaps have more Weight with ſome of you) if you would preſerve yourſelves, your Families, your Poſterity, from Poverty, from Slavery, Ignorance, Idolatry, Torture and Death; if you would ſave yourſelves and them from all the infernal Horrors of Popery, and the ſavage Tyranny of *French* Conquerors; in ſhort, if you would avoid all that is terrible, and enjoy every Thing that is dear and valuable, REPENT, and turn to the LORD. This is the only Cure for our wounded Country; and if you refuſe to adminiſter it in Time, prepare to periſh in its Ruins. If you go on impenitent in Sin, you may expect not only to be damned for ever, but (what is more terrible to ſome of you) to fall into the moſt extreme outward Diſtreſs. You will have Reaſon to fear not only the Loſs of Heaven, which ſome of you perhaps think little of, but the Loſs of all, that lies ſo near your Hearts. And will you not repent,

repent, when you are preſſed to it from ſo many Quarters at once?

I have but a few parting Words to offer to you on this ſolemn Occaſion.

My laſt Advice is, Labour to conduct this Expedition in a religious Manner. Methinks this ſhould not ſeem ſtrange Counſel to Creatures, entirely dependent upon GOD, and at his Diſpoſal. Let Prayer to the GOD of your Life be your daily Exerciſe. When Retirement is ſafe, pour out your Hearts to Him in ſecret; and when it is practicable, join in Prayer together Morning and Evening in your Camp. How acceptable to Heaven muſt ſuch an *unuſual Offering be!* Maintain a Senſe of Divine Providence upon your Hearts, and reſign yourſelves and all your Affairs into the Hands of GOD. You are engaged in a good Cauſe, the Cauſe of your People, and the Cities of your GOD; and therefore you may the more boldly commit it to Him, and pray and hope for his Bleſſing.

And now, my dear Friends, and the Friends of your neglected Country, *In the Name of the* LORD *lift up your Banners: Be of good Courage, and play the Men, for the People and the Cities of your* GOD; *and the* LORD *do what ſeemeth Him good.* May the LORD of Hoſts, the GOD of the Armies of *Iſrael*, go forth along with you! May *He teach your Hands to War, and gird you with Strength to Battle!* May He bleſs you with a ſafe Return, and long Life, or a glorious Death, and a happy Immortality! May He guard and ſupport your anxious Families and Friends at Home, and return you victorious to their longing Arms! May all the Bleſſings your Hearts can wiſh attend you wherever you go! Theſe are Wiſhes and Prayers of my Heart; and Thouſands concur in them: And we cannot but chearfully hope they will be granted, through JESUS CHRIST. *Amen.*

FINIS.